

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 ARA-06

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DRAFTED BY EB:ORF:OFP:FPD:PDTAYLOR:ML

APPROVED BY EB - JULIUS L. KATZ

EA/ANP -RWILLIAMS (INFO)

USDA/FAS-RANDERSON (INFO)

----- 088007

P 152340Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON MEAT IMPORT QUOTAS.

1. THE DEPARTMENT CALLED IN DONALD WALKER AND WILLIAM DOLAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY ON OCTOBER 15 TO CONSULT WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ AND OTHERS ON MEAT IMPORT QUOTAS.

2. MR. KATZ RECALLED THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION OF QUOTAS ON MEAT IMPORTS AT 1,233 MILLION POUNDS. REGARDING COUNTRY QUOTAS, OUR PRESENT INTENTION IS TO SET THEM AT THE RESTRAINT LEVELS FOR COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE HAVE AGREEMENTS AND ESTABLISH AN "OTHER" CATEGORY FOR IMPORTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. MEXICO IS THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH DOES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT APPEAR LIKELY TO FILL ITS RESTRAINT ALLOCATION AND

THEREFORE REPRESENTS THE ONLY POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING THE "OTHER" CATEGORY ENOUGH TO PERMIT COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS TO MAKE FURTHER SHIPMENTS TO THE U.S. THIS YEAR.

3. KATZ ALSO NOTED THAT A REGULATION WOULD BE ISSUED TO COVER MEAT IMPORTED TO THE US AFTER PROCESSING IN THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONES. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT THE EXACT PHRASING OF THE REGULATION BUT IT WILL NOT APPLY TO MEAT WHICH HAS ALREADY ENTERED THE US FOR CONSUMPTION.

4. KATZ SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT REGARD THE PRESENT QUOTA ALLOCATIONS AS ANY PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE. WALKER SAID THAT HE WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR THIS BECAUSE THE MAIN CONCERN IN WELLINGTON HAD BEEN WHETHER ACTIONS NOW WOULD PREJUDGE THE TYPE OF PROGRAM THE US WOULD EMPLOY IN 1977 AND THE MARKET SHARES OF COUNTRIES THAT WOULD EXPORT TO THE US THEN. KATZ SAID THAT WE ARE TRYING TO MANAGE THE NEXT 2 AND 1/2 MONTHS ADHERING AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS. THE USE OF QUOTAS NOW DID NOT PRESUPPOSE QUOTAS WOULD BE USED NEXT YEAR EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT THE CONDITIONS WHICH MADE QUOTAS NECESSARY AT THIS TIME MIGHT CONTINUE TO APPLY IN 1977.

5. KATZ EMPHASIZED THAT THE CANADIAN SITUATION WAS OF SOME CONCERN TO BOTH COUNTRIES. THE SOONER THE MEAT IMPORTS FROM CANADA INTO THE US HAVE TO BE TERMINATED UNDER A QUOTA REGIME, THE SOONER THE CANADIANS WILL HAVE TO COME TO SOME DECISION ABOUT HOW TO TREAT IMPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO OPERATE A US MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM WHICH RESTRAINT IMPORTS FROM ALL COUNTRIES BUT CANADA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE CANADIANS ALLOW IMPORTS TO ENTER FROM ALL SOURCES FREE OF RESTRAINTS.

6. WALKER NOTED THAT THIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACCEPT THE ALLEGATION THAT IMPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA, A DISPLACED MEAT INTO THE US MARKET. KATZ RESPONDED THAT THE CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN IMPORTS INTO CANADA FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND CLEARLY HAD AN IMPACT ON THE LARGE INCREASE IN EXPORTS FROM CANADA TO THE US.

7. FINALLY DOLAN COMMENTED THAT NEW ZEALAND WOULD HAVE WANTED TO ARGUE OVER THE COUNTRY QUOTAS HAD THEY NOT BEEN ASSURED THAT QUOTAS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1976 WOULD NOT CREATE A PRECEDENT FOR COUNTRY SHARES IN FUTURE IMPORT PROGRAMS. HABIB

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